

a single deck. Nowhere in Wu is there a disclosure of a single deck with signal conductors on one side and power conductors on an opposite side of that same deck. The features of claim 34 are not "anticipated" by Wu; nor obvious in view of Wu. Therefore, claim 34 is patentable and should be allowed.

In Paragraph 4, the Examiner rejected claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 6027375) in view of Chang et al. (US 6296521). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended above to clarify the claimed invention. Claim 1 recites that the power contacts extend into the receiving areas on respective sides of the receiving areas that are opposite the signal contacts in each receiving area. The examiner stated that it would have been obvious to modify Wu by including the signal contacts and the power contacts extending into the same receiving area as taught in Chang et al.

Chang et al. discloses an electrical connector having signal contacts extending into a receiving area in a universal serial bus location configuration, and power contacts extending into the same receiving area. Chang et al. states, in the abstract, that "A pair of power contacts are respectively disposed by two sides of the signal contacts in the housing." As seen in Fig. 3, signal contacts 24 are on the same side as power contacts 26 (to mate with the same sided contacts 46, 48 of the plug shown in Fig. 9) Nothing in Chang et al. discloses or suggests the relocation of the power conductors

to other locations, such as to a side that is **opposite** a side having the signal contacts.

In contrast, in claim 1 the power contacts are located on the "on respective sides of the receiving areas that are opposite the signal contacts in each receiving area." As pointed out in the specification of the present application (page 15, line 28 through page 16, line 6), "By providing the signal contacts 92 and the power contacts 96 on **opposite sides** of the same contact supporting deck 88, the height of the front end of the connector 80, which is inserted into one of the receiving areas of the connector 10, can be much smaller than a conventional USB plug having power contacts." The deck 88 can also comprise a shield layer to shield the signal contacts 92 from electromagnetic interference from electricity traveling through the power contacts 96. Neither Wu nor Chang et al., alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the features of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 2-10 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claims 11 and 18 have been amended to clarify Applicants' claimed invention. Claim 11 recites that electrical power contacts are connected to the housing and extend into the receiving areas on respective sides of the receiving areas opposite the signal contacts in each receiving areas. Claim 18 recites that the signal and power contacts in a first one

of the receiving areas are arranged in an array with the signal contacts on sides of each receiving area that are opposite the power contacts in the first receiving area. These features are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claims 11 and 18 are patentable and should be allowed. Though dependent claims 12-17 and 19-25 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 11 and 18, respectively. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 26 has not been amended. Claim 26 recites that the at least one plug receiving area is sized and shaped to receive the plurality of USB plugs with signal contact supporting decks of two of the plugs being located **vertically offset** relative to each other and power contact supporting sections of the two plugs being at least partially **laterally adjacent** each other. This is not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Claims 26-28 are patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 29 recites that the first and second receiving area sections each have their power contact sections vertically offset from their signal contact supporting decks. This is not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 29 is patentable and should be allowed. Though dependent claims 30-33 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 29. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are

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clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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ADDED PAGES TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows.

1. (Amended) An electrical connector comprising:

electrical contacts comprising signal contacts and power contacts; and

a housing having the electrical contacts connected thereto, the housing comprising at least two vertically offset electrical plug receiving areas, wherein the signal contacts extend into the receiving areas in a universal serial bus (USB) electrical conductor location configuration, and wherein the power contacts extend into the receiving areas on respective sides of the receiving areas that are opposite the signal contacts in each receiving area.

11. (Amended) A universal serial bus (USB) electrical connector comprising:

a housing forming a plurality of USB plug receiving areas;

electrical signal contacts connected to the housing, and extending into the receiving areas, arranged for operably electrically connecting to the USB plugs inserted into the USB plug receiving areas; and

electrical power contacts connected to the housing and extending into the receiving areas on respective sides of

the receiving areas opposite the signal contacts in each receiving areas, wherein the housing has a section between two of the receiving areas, and wherein the power contacts extend from the section in opposite directions into the two receiving areas.

13. ~~(deleted) A universal serial bus electrical connector as in claim 11 wherein the electrical signal contacts extend into the receiving areas opposite the electrical power contacts.~~

14. (Amended) A universal serial bus electrical connector as in claim ~~11~~¹³ wherein the signal and power contacts extending into a first one of the receiving areas are arranged as a substantially mirror image of the signal and power contacts extending into a second one of the receiving areas.

18. (Amended) An electrical connector comprising:

a housing having two plug receiving areas vertically offset relative to each other; and

electrical contacts connected to the housing and extending into the two plug receiving areas, the contacts comprising signal contacts and power contacts,

wherein the power contacts extend into the two receiving areas and the signal contacts extend into the two receiving areas, and wherein the signal and power contacts in a first one of the receiving areas are arranged in an array with the signal contacts on sides of each receiving area that are opposite the power contacts in the first receiving area, the array being ~~which is~~

substantially a mirror image of the signal and power contacts in a second one of the receiving areas.

29. (Amended) An electrical connector comprising:

a housing having at least one plug receiving area; and
electrical contacts connected to the housing, the contacts comprising signal contacts and power contacts,
wherein the at least one plug receiving area comprises:

a first receiving area section sized and shaped to receive a first electrical plug having a signal contact supporting deck and a power contact section vertically offset from the signal contact supporting deck; and

a second receiving area section sized and shaped to receive a second electrical plug having a signal contact supporting deck and a power contact section vertically offset from the signal contact supporting deck,

and wherein at least one of the first and second receiving area sections is sized and shaped to alternatively receive a third electrical plug having a signal contact supporting deck, but not having a power contact section.